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### AAA ASSIGNED PART IN NATIONAL DEFENSE

#### *A Challenge to Northeast Committeemen*

Every farmer will be asked to do his part in the defense of the country. He will be requested to state definitely, sometime in November, what he believes he can do on his farm to build up the national farm production that will be needed in 1942.

The enrollment campaign will start November 1. The aim will be to reach every farmer in the country. AAA committeemen -- community committeemen particularly -- have been given the job of making the canvass. Every committeeman is needed to get the job done. If all committeemen -- including alternates -- do their part, there will be around 75 farms for each committeeman to visit. That is a big job. If any committeeman can't help, the burden on the rest will be just that much heavier.

#### *Canvass Calls for Patriotism*

When the committeeman visits each of his neighbors, he will discuss with him the job that Agriculture is called upon to do for national defense. He will discuss local goals, and practical ways of meeting them, and he will make a record of what each farmer thinks he can produce in 1942.

At the same time, the committeeman will talk over with the farmer his soil-building allowance and any allotments under the AAA program.

The form to be used will provide for the farmer to sign up, first, as a volunteer in the defense program, and second, if he desires, as a participant in the AAA program. If he wishes, he can volunteer for defense production without signing up for the conservation program of the AAA.

As mentioned in the Secretary's address contained in the September issue of *Facts*, the Farm Defense Program has as its aim the production of all agricultural products in quantities adequate to supply both the United States and nations which are resisting aggression.

To this end, national production goals for 1942 have been set up by the Department of Agriculture. Production increases are called for in some products, continuation of present production for others, and decreases in still others. Greater total production than ever before is called for.

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*Goals of Interest to NER*

The 1942 national goals of particular interest to the Northeast are:

Milk, 125 billion pounds -- an increase of 12½ percent over 1940 production; eggs, 3,700 million dozen to be produced on farms -- an increase of 14 percent over 1940 production; commercial vegetables for fresh use, 1.9 million acres for 1942 as against 1.8 million in 1941; commercial vegetables for processing, 1.5 million acres as against 1.4 million acres in 1941. The vegetable increases requested are in areas where supplies were rather short in 1941.

Farmers in each of the Northeast States, as in other areas, will individually determine what they can do toward the realization of these goals. It will be a purely voluntary matter with each farmer being asked to indicate what he believes his farm can do and what he wants to do. There is every reason to believe that, once the farmer realizes the need for the increases and the way in which the Government stands ready to assist him, he will readily volunteer to do his part.

It is at this point that the importance of the committeeman stands out. For the committeemen in their canvasses will have the responsibility of explaining the Farm Defense Program to the individual farmer.

Plans are being formulated for county conferences at which committeemen will prepare for the canvass. It is now possible, however, to discuss a few basic principles which committeemen will want to know in making preliminary plans for farm contacts:

*What Every Committeeman Ought to Know*

1. The outstanding fact is that the canvass is an enrollment of farmer volunteers for defense. This is in no sense a survey or a census.
2. It is not desired to have any farmer volunteer for more than is practical -- or for production that can be attained only inefficiently at high cost.
3. It should be stressed that this program is being planned and carried out with careful thought to the post-war position of American agriculture. For the first time production of all farm commodities is being planned in line with needs. The next 2 years should provide a good opportunity for reducing indebtedness.

The present period is one in which the farmer will realize fair prices for most of his products. It should not result in unwarranted speculation and increases in the farm debt load. In canvassing farms, committeemen have the opportunity to discourage any tendency in this direction.

The committeemen of the Northeast are entrusted in this canvass with the biggest and most essential job that has ever been put into their hands. At the same time, this is an opportunity to perform a vital service.

*A. W. Manchester*

Director, Northeast Division.

### NER GETS MORE SUPERPHOSPHATE TO AID MILK PRODUCTION

Farmers in most of the States of the Northeast Region have available to them an opportunity to improve pastures and thereby place themselves in a stronger position to meet the increased production of milk so urgently sought by the nation under the 1942 Farm Defense Program.

The opportunity comes in the form of an additional allocation of 30,000 tons of 20 percent superphosphate under the 1942 program for use in most of the States of the Region. The fertilizer, which will be delivered to railroad sidings, is being made available to the Northeast primarily to assist cooperating farmers to produce the increase in dairy production which the Secretary has requested.

Perhaps the most effective use which may be made of the superphosphate is application of it to pastures and new seedings. Pastures treated with conservation materials are not only more capable of supporting a greater number of animal units, but recover more rapidly from the effects of drought. With most dairymen looking for better feeding as one of the most reliable methods of increasing milk production, the additional supply of superphosphate should be most welcome.

Counting the new supply, it is estimated the Northeast will have a total of 150,000 tons available for distribution under the 1942 Program.

In view of the fact that the new procedure for taking orders for superphosphate calls for the placing of orders at an earlier date, it is considered advisable for areas which are using superphosphate to step up the taking of such orders from farmers so that requests for shipment will be available in State offices for placing with the suppliers as soon as the material becomes available.

### UNLEASH OUR STRENGTH FOR VICTORY IN "OUR WAR" -- Evans

"...for the first time in history our agriculture is setting up a production schedule that consciously is taking into account reserves of food for freedom. My visit to Great Britain and my talks with people who have been all over Europe convince me that those stockpiles and reserves now being built up for the sake of democracy will be the largest single factor in shaping the future course of world history. ... In the fight for freedom, milk and meat will take up the job where bombs and planes leave off. That job is America's.

"The American people long ago took up their stand against Hitlerism when they decided to send bombs and planes to his enemies. Hitler knows we are against him and he is not the kind to forgive and forget. ... This is our war and we might just as well pull our heads out of the sand. So far we've tried to win all our battles by slugging with one hand tied behind our backs or simply by wishful thinking. We know that won't work now any more than it worked for millions of people stamped under Hitler's heel...

"The time has come when we've got to roll up our sleeves and start slugging with both hands. We have farm strength unparalleled and factory strength unmatched.... We have developed them because we are a free people. We owe it now to the cause of freedom for ourselves and people everywhere to unleash our full strength for victory." -- Address by R. M. Evans, AAA Administrator, at Kansas City, Oct. 9, reporting on his recent trip to Great Britain.

*"Tell Me, Mr. Committeeman, What Will Happen If....."*

Replies to Some of the Questions That  
May Come Up in the Farm Canvass

Certain questions will no doubt come up repeatedly in conferences between committeemen and farmers, and while the answers are not always as definite as might be wished, each farmer should have all available information as a basis for his own planning. Here, in brief, are a few of these questions and a straightforward answer to each.

1. *Question: If I make the increases requested, what prices will I get for my products?*

Answer: The principal product of the Northeast for which the Secretary has promised support at 85 percent of parity is eggs. This promise is good until December 31, 1942. Other products guaranteed such price support are evaporated milk, dried milk, cheese, chickens, and pork.

In regard to milk prices in markets where Federal marketing agreements are in existence, Secretary Wickard has expressed a willingness to review prices whenever changing conditions made a re-examination desirable.

For most agricultural products, the market outlook is exceptionally good.

2. *Question: Are feed prices going to keep on going up, and how far?*

Answer: Right now, there is no complete answer to this question. The recent price increases of feedstuffs are under study by Government agencies.

The Department of Agriculture has frequently stated its intention to take all possible steps in maintaining a relationship between the price of feed and the price of animal products that will make heavy feeding possible.

3. *Question: Can I be sure of enough farm labor?*

Answer: There undoubtedly will be serious shortages of labor. Much is being done and will be done by the Government to help out, but there won't be enough labor to go around. Each farmer should make his plans on the basis of what labor he believes he can secure and the best utilization of it. Much will depend on individual resourcefulness.

4. *Question: Can I be sure of getting the farm machinery I want?*

Answer: Priorities have been given to materials for farm machinery. Substantial supplies are probable. Still, there may be some shortages and delays. There won't be enough metal to go around, and economy in its use is necessary.

Each farmer should make provision early for the machinery that he must have; he should also plan to repair and take good care of existing machinery.

5. *Question: Can I get enough fertilizer, and at what price?*

Answer: The chemical industry is overloaded with defense orders. Demand for fertilizer will be up. Some modest advances in the price of fertilizer are justified. Quotations are or will be soon available. There will be some shortages. Fertilizer should be used economically and in connection with the best crop practices.